

From: Michael Kale
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:22pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am a US citizen and I live in Seattle, WA.

I oppose the current Microsoft settlement. It does not do enough to ensure competition in the computer industry, which is of utmost importance. Competition is the single most important thing which ensures that consumers win. Competition spurs innovation, lower prices, more consumer friendly products, and a whole slew of things that nine out of ten people would agree are a benefit to everyone.

If Microsoft is allowed to abuse its monopoly power to further squish its competitors, the consumer will lose big time.

I can go into much detail about _why_ I think the current settlement does not do enough to ensure competition, but I want to make sure that someone on the other end of this email is actually reading this message and wants to listen to what I have to say. If so, please write back and I will be happy to oblige. Until then, the most important objection I have is that the settlement does not force Microsoft to open up it's networking protocols and API implementations. Internet standards are what allow computers from many different vendors to talk to each other and work together. Microsoft would like to ignore computing standards and only allow windows machines to talk to windows machines. This creates "lock-in" where it becomes very difficult to operate a heterogeneous computing environment with more than one type of computer. Thus, once you have windows machines, it becomes very difficult to have any OTHER kind of machines, and competition is hampered unnecessarily.

Thanks a lot for your time,

Michael Kale